


AGENDA



Thursday, June 8, 2006

 + Back

55

ITEM 48

**Purchasing Service Agreement
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL
ACTION**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract with MEDICAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC., Sarasota, FL, for the purchase of two emergency care simulator training manikins and associated support equipment, supplies and training in an amount not to exceed \$147,954.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available through the Metropolitan Medical Response System Program Continuation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security budgeted in Public Safety and Emergency Management.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Mick Osborne, Sr. Buyer/974
2995

Prior Council Action:

Boards and Commission Action:

Purchasing Language: Sole Source.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9 of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this purchase.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

No Attachments Available

This contract is for the purchase of two emergency care simulator (ECS) training manikins (one adult and one pediatric) and associated support equipment, supplies, and training.

The ECS manikins developed by Medical Education Technologies, Inc. are lifelike and medically authentic simulators. They simulate all the vital signs of human patients, including heart rhythms and rates, blood pressure, body temperature, arterial blood gases, and reaction to medications and therapeutic treatments. They are used for training paramedics to deal with extreme emergencies in realistic settings. Studies in medical and nursing schools have shown that the believability of simulation training is the determining factor in students' ability to transfer their skills from practice sessions to real life. The ECS manikin has incorporated versatility through programmable functions and physiological fidelity to the way a human body operates. Instructor control and data recording functions will allow testing and measurement of the effectiveness of paramedic interventions.

A major advantage of using ECS manikins is to reduce training time. Currently, paramedic cadets are assigned to training crews where they gain experience with live patients while under the supervision of a Field Training Officer. The paramedic's training period is not over until the paramedic has demonstrated competence with a broad range of cases, some of which occur infrequently. With the ECS, the paramedic's skills can be honed and tested in realistic settings without waiting for real emergencies.

In the current hiring environment, there is a nationwide shortage of paramedics. Austin-Travis County EMS is making innovative efforts to shorten the time it takes to make a new hire productive. The ECS is one set of tools in this effort.

The Austin-Travis County EMS STAR Flight program currently has one adult ECS manikin, purchased by Travis County and available for paramedic training. The proposed contract will authorize the purchase of a child manikin in order to expand the breadth of training and one additional adult manikin in order to expand the volume of training.

Medical Education Technologies, Inc. is the manufacturer and sole provider of the ECS manikin. This equipment is being purchased as a sole source in order to provide consistency in training throughout the department and to provide compatibility with the existing equipment when conducting large training exercises utilizing multiple manikins.